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SOURCE Newspapers and periodical and yearbook as indicated.

SURVEY OF OIL SEED PRODUCTION IN CHINA, 1949 - 1952[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

This report on oil seed production in China, for the period 1949 - 1952, presents information from Chinese-language publications. Most of the information was taken from Chinese Communist newspapers, periodicals and the 1952 yearbook published on the mainland. Some information was taken from Hong Kong newspapers. The chief oil-bearing agricultural crops of China are soybeans, peanuts, cottonseed, rapeseed, castor beans, hampseed, sesame seed, flaxseed and tea.

Soybeans

The chief oil-producing food crop in China is the soybean. Soybeans are raised in almost all parts of the country, but chiefly in the Northeast and in North and Central China.

Soybean production in China in 1949 was 34 percent of the highest crop on record. For 1951 it was 62 percent and for 1951, 72 percent.(1) The average production for 1931 through 1937 is usually used as a norm for prewar production in China proper and 1943 as the highest year for production in the Northeast.(7) Soybean production in the Northeast for 1950 amounted to 3,010,000 tons as of 9 November that year.(2) As of September 1950, it was estimated that soybean production in Honan in 1950 would reach 33 1/3 percent above that for 1949.(3)

A 1951 report gives 1,760,000,000 catties as the annual soybean production for Central-South China and 1,100,000,000 catties for the annual production in Honan.(4) An indication of the importance of the soybean in China's export trade is shown by the report that Japan contracted for the purchase of 600,000 tons to be supplied from the Northeast in 1950.(5) It was also reported that the Northeast authorities were planning to export 700,000 tons of soybeans to the USSR between December 1949 and March 1951.(6)

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The 1952 soybean production for Heilungkiang Province on over 600,000 mou one mou equals 1/6 acre is reported from various areas as from 100 percent to sever hundred percent over the highest previous figure.(7)

Peanuts

Shantung is the chief peanut-producing province in China. The peanut crop in that province in 1950 was reported as 800 million shih-chin one shih chin equals 1.1 pound.(8) The annual export capacity of the province was reported in 1950 at 100,000 tons.(9)

Cottonseed

Cotton production in China in 1949 was 52 percent of the highest annual production on record; in 1950, 84 percent; and in 1951, 133 percent.(1) A 1950 report gives 17 million piculs one picul equals 133 pounds as the highest prewar production figure.(3) Total cotton production in China in 1950 was reported to be 14,219,000 piculs.(10)

The Government Administration Council of the Central People's Government set the 1951 cotton production goal at 136.9 percent of 1950 production or approximately 19 million piculs.(11) In a press release the Minister of Agriculture of Communist China stated that the cotton crop of China for 1952 would approximate 300 percent of the 1949 production.(12) One report made in September 1950 placed 1949 production at 8.5 million piculs.(3)

Per-unit-of-area cotton production for 1952 is generally reported to average from 10 to 20 percent better than for 1951. Yields of 200 catties per mou of unginned cotton are reported quite general in Hopeh. Yields of 300 catties per mou on irrigated land and 250 catties per mou on nonirrigated land are reported from large areas in Shansi. Most of the Northwest reports gains up to 20 percent over 1951. The Northeast suffered some loss from red spiders. In September 1952, East China reported generally bumper crops except for some typhoon damage along the coasts of Kiangsu and Chekiang. Except for Hupeh where drought caused losses, all cotton producing areas of Central and South China reported high production. The Southwest also reported generally high production.(13)

Tung Oil

No production figures for tung oil were found in the material surveyed. However, the following data on the export of tung oil were found: Exports to Hong Kong in June 1950 amounted to 65,451 piculs.(14) Exports for July amounted to 92,451 piculs. Shipments from Chungking, an important collection point for Southwest China, were 1,657.5 tons and 3,315 tons, respectively, for April and May 1950.(15) Exports of tung oil for September and December 1952, totaled from weekly reports, amounted to 4,015 drums (plus 578 tons) and 792 drums (plus 360 tons), respectively.(16) A drum usually contains 50 gallons.

Rapeseed

Figures for rapeseed production were not found in the papers surveyed for this report. Reports of rapeseed oil exports to Hong Kong for September and December 1952 show 352 drums and 90 tons for September and 1,530 tons for December.(17)

Tea

No figures for tea production were found in the newspapers and periodicals surveyed for this report. The tea oil exported to Hong Kong in September 1952 amounted to 595 drums and 30 tons.(17)

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Sesame Oil

No figures for sesame seed production in the material surveyed for this report.

Castor Beans, Hempseed and Flaxseed

No data for the above items were observed in the material for this report.

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13. Pao-ting, Hopeh Jih-pao, 18 Sep 52
14. Hong Kong, Wen-hui Pao, 13 Jul 50
15. Ibid., 8 Sep 50
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